

## Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 VOE-00 MMS-03 PER-01 ABF-01

INSE-00 SY-04 SS-07 SP-03 /028 W

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R 300929Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1917

UNCLAS TAIPEI 3388

FOR SCA BARBARA WATSON FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 NA

TAGS CGEN , CVIS TW

SUBJECT: CONSULAR WORKLOAD PROBLEMS-TAIPEI

1. ALTHOUGH I HOPE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FULLER COMMENT ON SOME OTHER POINTS RAISED IN APRIL 19 MEMORANDUM YOU RPOVIDED ME IN WASHINGTON, I HAVE REACHED SOME PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS FOLLOWING TALKS WITH OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS AND OTHERS HERE IN TAIPEI.

2. I AM PLEASED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE WAITING LIST FOR IV APPLICANTS HAS ALREADY BEEN DRASTICALLY CUT BY DINT OF OVERTIME AND ADDITIONAL IV CLERK RECENTLY AUTHORIZED. WAITING LIST WILL BE ELIMINATED BY END OF JUNE IF VISA NUMBERS ARE AVAILABLE. I MUST CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT IT HAS TAKEN EXTRA HARD WORK AND MUCH OVERTIME TO ACHIEVE THIS TEMPORARY EQUILIBRIUM AND I FEAR WE WILL HAVE FURTHER PROBLEMS ON THIS SCORE IF OUR CONSULAR STAFF IS IS NOT EXPANDED.

3. YOUR MEMORANDUM STATED THAT INCREMENT IN EMBASSY'S HANDLING OF VISA CASE LOAD WAS PUZZLINGLY SMALL SINCE ADDITION OF FOURTH OFFICER POSITON. INCREASE HAS BEEN 27 PERCENT IF WE COMPARE 3385 CASES PROCESSED IN SIX-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1973 WITH 2666 IN PRRECEDING SIX-MONTHS BEFORE ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL OFFICER. THIS

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IS AN IMPRESSIVE INCREASE, ALL MORE SO SINCE OUR OFFICERS

ARE HAVING TO DEVOTE INCREASED TIME TO EACH CASE BECAUSE OF FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS. IN NONPREFERENCE CATEGORY FRAUDULENT APPLICANTS ARE RUNNING AT MORE THAN 85 PERCENT-- NOT ONLY IN CASE OF CHINESE COOKS BUT ALSO IN ALL LABOR CERTIFICATIONS EXCEPT THOSE FALLING UNDER SCHEDULE A. IN FACT ALMOST 100 PERCENT OF THESE CASES ARE NOW EITHER BEING REFUSED OR BEING DEFERRED FOR INVESTIGATION OR SUBMISSION OF FURTHER EVIDENCE.

4. LOOKING AHEAD OVER NEXT YEAR I AM CONCERNED THAT WE MAY SEE NOT ONLY REAPPEARANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE WAITING LIST BUT EVE MORE SERIOUS EMERGENCE OF LARGE INVESTIGATIVE BACKLOG CAUSED BY PREVALENCE OF FRAUD AND CONSEQUENT NEED FOR INVESTIGATION. ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATOR NOW AUTHORIZED DEVOTES 90 PERCENT OF HIS TIME TO NIV CASES. IV INVESTIGATIONS ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND TIME CONSUMING FREQUENTLY REQUIRING TRIPS OUTSIDE TAIPEI AREA. INVESTIGATOR'S WORK CAPACITY IS ABOUT 10 IV CASES EACH MONTH OR ROUGHLY 1/3 OF SUSPECTED CASES CURRENTLY BEING GENERATED.

5. I APPRECIATE SCA SUGGESTION THAT CONSULAR OPERATIONS HERE MIGHT BE FURTHER STREAMLINED TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY. WE WILL STRIVE FOR THIS BUT I DOUBT MUCH SAVING WILL BE POSSIBLE. MOST PROCEDURES SUGGESTED IN YOUR MEMO HAVE BEEN TRIED, AND EXPERT CONSULAR OFFICER WHO INSPECTED CURRENT PROCEDURES SEEMED SATISFIED WITH EFFICIENCY OF OPERATION. MOREOVER EMBASSY TAIPEI CASE LOAD/OFFICER RATIO IS VERY HIGH IN COMPARISON TO WHAT I UNDERSTAND TO BE THOSE OF MANY OTHER POSTS INCLUDING THOSE WITH EQUIVALENT FRAUD PROBLEMS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. TO COPE WITH RAPID BUILDUP OF INVESTIGATION BACKLOG I URGE THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TWO ADDITIONAL LOCAL INVESTIGATORS. ONE WOULD JOIN LOCAL RSO COMPLEMENT AND HELP MAINTAIN

MOMENTUM WHICH WE ARE DEVELOPING IN BREAKING BACK OF TAIWAN FRAUD PROBLEM. SECOND COULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE ONE INS OFFICER POSITION WE HAVE RECOMMEND BE MOVED  
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FROM HONG KONG TO TAIPEI. COMBINATION OF INS OFFICER/ LOCAL INVESTIGATOR WOULD BE OF MAJOR BENEFIT TO OUR VISA OPERATIONS.

B. TO PREVENT REAPPEARANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE WAITING LISTS AND SIMPLY TO DEAL WITH STEADY GROWTH IN VISA APPLICATIONS WE NEED THE ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER RECOMMENDED IN INSPECTOR'S REPORT. IF INS CAN ASSIGN

MAN TO TAIPEI THIS COMING FISCAL YEAR OUR REQUIREMENT MAY  
PROVE LESS URGENT BUT IF INS POSTPONES A DECISION DURING  
FY 75, I THINK WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL CONSULAR  
OFFICER BY LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. OTHERWISE WE WILL  
FACE PROSPECT OF CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER COMPLAINTS ABOUT  
INEVITABLE DELAYS. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SCA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSULAR WORKLOAD PROBLEMS-TAIPEI  
**TAGS:** CGEN, CVIS, TW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005